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The Polyporaceae of North America.—V. The Genera Cryptoporus, Piptoporus, Scutiger and Porodiscus

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The most important groups of the genus *Fomes*, as this term is generally used, have been treated in the preceding papers of this series. The plants heretofore considered are, for the most part, perennial, with large stratified sporophores which grow conspicuously upon the dead or dying wood infested by their very active mycelium. The present paper deals chiefly with species found under the genus *Polyporus* in Saccardo. These plants are annual and their fruit-bodies are less conspicuous than those of the former group, while their mycelium is usually comparatively limited in extent. Most of the species here discussed are terrestrial and somewhat fleshy, being allied to the Boletaceae. These terrestrial species are exceedingly rare and beautiful in North America, and present an interesting problem in distribution. The genus *Porodiscus* introduces the wood-loving forms of the genus *Polyporus*, which will form the subject of another article.

CRYPTOPORUS Shear, Bull. Torrey Club, **29**: 450. 1902

The name *Cryptoporus* was first used by Peck (Bull. Torrey Club, **7**: 104. 1880) to designate a new section of the Placodermei made necessary by the discovery of a species of *Polyporus* having a volva. His description of the section is as follows:

" Pileus at first subcarnose, becoming harder or corky, sessile or stipitate, the margins greatly prolonged beyond and beneath the

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mouths of the pores and wholly or partly concealing them from view, generally opening beneath by a small aperture; pores not stratose, the dissepiments thickened at the mouths and there differently colored."

In raising this section to generic rank, Shear cites Peck's description and the description of the single species contained in the section following, with a brief discussion of varieties and several additional collections from new localities.

CRYPTOPORUS VOLVATUS (Peck) Shear

Polyporus volvatus Peck, Rep. N. Y. State Mus. **27**: 98. 1877.

Polyporus obvolutus Berk. & Cooke, Grevillea, **7**: 1. 1878.

Fomes volvatus Cooke, Grevillea, **13**: 119. 1884.

Cryptoporus volvatus Shear, Bull. Torrey Club, **29**: 450. 1902.

This peculiar plant was described from specimens collected on *Abies nigra*. It is also found rarely on *Abies balsamea*, but seems to prefer species of pine, upon which it is quite common. I have seen dead trunks of *Pinus rigida* filled with the mycelium, the fruit bodies emerging through holes made by beetles. It is possible that the specimens found on charred wood in the West are larger than our Eastern plants because no effort is required to reach the surface through a heavy layer of cortex. Torrey's stipitate Western form figured by Gerard is duplicated at times in the East when the plant grows on the top of a log. Henning's variety *Helix* from California is fully described by Peck and differs in no way from the type, which had not been seen when the variety was described. Peck's varieties *obvolutus* and *Torreyi* seem hardly worthy of separation. *P. evolvens* Berk. & Cooke, Herb. Berk. 1879 from California, fastened to a sheet of *P. evolutus* B. & C., is only *P. volvatus* and is very distinct from *P. evolutus*.

EXSICC.: California, *Harkness*, *Torrey*, *McClatchie*; Colorado, *Crandall*, *Shear & Bessey*; Oregon, *Shear*, *Carpenter*; West Virginia, *Nuttall*; New York, *Murrill*; Michigan, *Robbins*; British Columbia, *Macoun*; Delaware, *Commons*; District of Columbia, *Shear*, *Hicks*.

PIPTOPORUS Karst. Rev. Myc. 3: 17. 1881

This genus was originally established upon a single species, *Polyporus betulinus* (Bull.) Fr., and has since remained monotypic.

It is chiefly distinguished from nearly related genera by its separable hymenium, which, upon investigation, is found to be cut off from the context proper by a thin flesh-colored layer of mycelium connected very loosely with the adjacent layers and allowing them to separate easily. In age this layer disintegrates and the tubes fall away in irregular masses, leaving the smooth white surface of the context conspicuously exposed.

PIPTOPORUS SUBEROSUS (L.) Murrill

Boletus suberosus L. Sp. Pl. 1176. 1753.

Boletus betulinus Bull. Herb. France, *pl. 312.* 1786.

Polyporus betulinus Fr. Syst. Myc. **1**: 358. 1821.

Piptoporus betulinus Karst. Rev. Myc. **3**: 17. 1881.

Piptoporus suberosus Murrill, Jour. Myc. **9**: 94. 1903.

Pileus fleshy to corky, compressed ungulate, convex above, plane below, attached by a short umbo behind, varying to bell-shaped when hanging from horizontal trunks, 5–30 × 5–20 × 2–5 cm.; surface smoky, covered with a thin separating pellicle, glabrous, devoid of markings, cracking with age; margin velvety, concolorous, obtuse, projecting beyond the hymenium nearly a centimeter: context fleshy-tough, elastic, homogeneous, 3 cm. thick, milk white; tubes separated from context by a thin pink layer, 0.5 cm. long, 2–3 to a mm., sodden white; mouths very irregular, dissepiments thicker than pores, obtuse, entire, crumbling away in age, leaving the smooth white context: spores white, cylindrical, curved, 4–5 μ in length.

This plant is confined to species of birch, upon the dead or decaying trunks of which it is quite abundant in the northern United States and Canada. Its common occurence in Sweden explains why it was noticed and described by Linnaeus in Flora Suecica as early as 1745. From the following selected exsiccati it will be seen that this species is as cosmopolitan as its hosts. France, *Roumeguere 2102;* Germany, *Sydow 627;* Saxony, *Krieger 907;* Sweden, *Romell 10, Murrill;* Russia, *Jaczewski 76;* Wisconsin, *Baker;* New Jersey, *Murrill;* New York, *Underwood, Murrill;* New Hampshire, *Miss Minns, Grout.*

SCUTIGER Paul. Icon. Champ. *pl. 31. f. 1–3.* 1793

Seven species were included in this genus by Paulet, one of them an agaric, four hydnums and two polypores. The first species listed and described is *Scutiger tuberosus* Paul., later changed to *Polyporus asperellus* by Leveille, a well-known European species belonging to the section *Ovini* of Fries and to the genus *Polyporus* of Karsten and *Caloporus* of Quélet. *Albatrellus* of S. F. Gray, another synonym of *Scutiger*, antedates the two last mentioned by more than half a century. Plants belonging to this genus are central-stemmed, fleshy-tough and terrestrial with white flesh, rounded pores and smooth, hyaline spores. Some of the members of this group approach the closely related genus *Boletus*, but are firmer, tougher and more lasting.

As to distribution, the species of *Scutiger* are, in general, limited to rather small areas ; few of them are common, some are rare and local, and, so far as known, European and American species are entirely distinct. The indications are that the plants lack vigor and are easily affected by soil, climate and other environmental conditions. *Polyporus poripes* Fr. was placed in this group before the plant was fully known. Mature specimens show that it belongs rather with multiplex forms such as *Polyporus frondosus* under the genus *Grifola*. A somewhat older stage of *P. poripes* was described by Berkeley and Ravenel in 1872 as *P. flavovirens*.

Synopsis of the North American Species

1. Surface of pileus uneven, squamose or rugose. 2.
Surface of pileus smooth, tomentose or glabrous. 4.

2. Pileus sulfur-yellow, pleuropus, surface ornamented with imbricated floccose wart-like scales, context white or yellowish, tubes small, angular, decurrent, white, becoming greenish when wounded, yellowish when dry, spores $9 \times 6 \mu$. 1. *S. Ellisii.*
Pileus brown. 3.

3. Tubes large, 1.5 mm. or more in diameter, hexagonal, surface of pileus smoky-brown ornamented with darker imbricated tufts of appressed hairs, context white, stipe excentric, its entire surface reticulate. 2. *S. retipes.*
Tubes small, 0.5 mm. in diameter, polygonal, decurrent, white, pileus reddish-brown, rugose, stipe central, not reticulate. 3. *S. decurrens.*

4. Pileus light-colored, white, red or blue. 5.
Pileus dark-colored, gray or brown. 7.

5. Pileus white, context white, tubes irregular, dissepiments thin, white, plants small, growing upon grass roots, stipe short, dark-brown. 4. *S. cryptopus.*
Pileus red, glabrous, stipe short, concolorous, context rose-colored, tubes short, small, $1\text{–}2 \times 0.2$ mm., decurrent, orange-colored, spores ovoid, hyaline, $4 \times 5\text{–}6 \mu$. 5. *S. laeticolor.*
Pileus blue when fresh, changing to brown on drying. 6.

6. Tubes entire, becoming reddish-brown on drying, context ochraceous and pileus and stipe reddish-brown in herbarium specimens. 6. *S. caeruleoporus.*

Tubes lacerate, fading to grayish-brown or dirty white, context nearly white, pileus and stipe dull smoky-brown when dry. 7. *S. holocyaneus.*

7. Stipe black and rooting. 8.

Stipe neither black nor rooting. 9.

8. Pileus smoky-brown, subtomentose, margin thin, inflexed, context white, tubes regular, polygonal, entire, 2 mm. long, 0.5 mm. in diameter, stipe cylindrical, light-brown above, black and rooting below, spores white, elliptical, 7 × 5 μ. 8. *S. radicatus.*

Pileus drab-colored, nearly glabrous, margin thin, inflexed when young, context milk-white even when dry, tubes white, irregular, toothed, 1 mm. long, 0.25 mm. in diameter, stipe short, sooty-black as far as the decurrent tubes, attached to buried wood, spores white, 3-4 × 5–7 μ. 9. *S. subradicatus.*

9. Pileus gray, glabrous or nearly so, margin very thin, context rosy-gray, soft, fleshy, thin when dry, tubes small, 0.25–0.5 mm., unequal, decurrent stipe short, concolorous. 10. *S. griseus.*

Pileus brown. 10.

10. Stipe dark purple, very thick, pileus fulvous-brown, purplish at times, clothed with short tomentum, margin very obtuse, context reddish beneath the cuticle, marked when dry with a black concentric line limiting growth, tubes white, 2 to a mm. 11. *S. persicinus.*

Stipe yellowish-brown, usually excentric, plants caespitose, pileus yellowish-brown, pruinose, margin thin, context rose-tinted when dry, dark red next to the tubes, which are small, 1–3 × 0.3 mm., decurrent, rose-colored when dry, the edges fimbriate. 12. *S. Whiteae.*

1. **Scutiger Ellisii** (Berk.)

Polyporus Ellisii Berk. Grevillea, **7**: 5. 1878.

Polyporus flavosquamosus Underw. Bull. Torrey Club, **24**: 84. 1897.

This plant was first collected by Ellis in low woods near Newfield, New Jersey. In 1886 only two specimens of it were known to Ellis, the one just mentioned and one collected in South Carolina by Ravenel. In 1897 it was found in Alabama by Mrs. Earle and redescribed by Underwood as *P. flavosquamosus.* The specimen thus described was growing on clayey soil in pine woods and was large and of advanced age, for it was in February that it was found. Very young plants of this species were collected in the same locality by Bradford in December, 1900, which measured over three inches across, emitting when fresh a "strong unpleasant odor." The indications are, judging from the meager knowledge at our command, that this attractive species is at home in the gulf states and grows but sparingly above the Carolinas.

2. **Scutiger retipes** (Underw.)

Polyporus retipes Underw. Bull. Torrey Club, **24**: 85. 1897.

The type collection of this species was made in Alabama in 1897 by Mrs. F. S. Earle. The plants were found in autumn growing on the ground in pine woods. Collections were made later in Alabama by Earle and Baker. In color and stature this species resembles specimens of *Polyporus ovinus* sent from Upsala to Kew, but the pores are very much larger and the species are very distinct.

3. **Scutiger decurrens** (Underw.)

Polyporus decurrens Underw. Bull. Torrey Club, **24**: 83. 1897.

This is a very distinct species, about which little is known. The type plants were collected by Dr. Hasse near Pasadena, California, growing in the soil on the side of a cañon. The collection was made in February, 1896, and no new collections of the species have been reported since.

4. **Scutiger cryptopus** (Ell. & Barth.)

Polyporus cryptopus Ell. & Barth. Erythea, **4**: 79. 1896.

A very distinct and interesting species found by Bartholomew in Kansas attached to dead grass roots in sandy pastures. The name refers to its habit of lying flat on the ground and thus concealing the stipe, in which position the pilei look like small whitish discs.

5. **Scutiger laeticolor** sp. nov.

A thick central-stemmed plant of rather large size with a smooth red pileus and orange-colored tubes. Pileus circular in outline, depressed at the center, 10 × 10 × 1 cm.; surface glabrous, brick-colored to purplish-red, margin acute, at first inflexed, irregularly undulate: context fleshy-tough, pale rose-colored, homogeneous, 0.75 cm. thick; tubes 1–2 mm. long, 5 to a mm., decurrent, rather dark orange throughout, mouth subcircular or polygonal, dissepiments thin, toothed at times, especially when decurrent: spores ovoid, smooth, hyaline, copious, $4 \times 5–6 \mu$: stipe short, thick, increasing upward, 2 × 1–2.5 cm., resembling the pileus in color, but solid, firm and tough, with darker flesh.

The above description is made from a rather old and somewhat faded dried specimen collected by Underwood in Alabama in

November, 1895, and now in the Underwood herbarium. Although the description is on this account unsatisfactory, the plant is nevertheless very distinct and must be highly attractive when seen at its best. The only other plant of this species that I have seen is one at Kew sent by Ravenel under the name *P. confluens.* This specimen however, does not figure in my description, since I have made no special study of it. Like most of the other members of the genus, this species is doubtless rare and probably confined to the states south of Virginia. The appearance of the stipe indicates that it is terrestrial, growing unattached in soil rich in humus. The name I have chosen for it refers to its brilliant coloring throughout.

6. **Scutiger caeruleoporus** (Peck)

Polyporus caeruleoporus Peck, Rep. N. Y. State Mus. **26**: 68. 1874.

EXSICC.: New York, *Peck, Ellis;* Vermont, *Morgan;* North Carolina, *Atkinson.*

This rare and beautiful species is found on the ground in woods during midsummer. In sheltered spots the whole plant is externally grayish-blue in color, the blue fading gradually to gray upon exposure. Specimens have been found with one half of the pileus exposed and faded, while the other sheltered half was normal. In drying, the blue color disappears, being retained longer in the hymenium than in the surface of the pileus. It was from partially faded specimens that the plant was first described. Herbarium specimens in the Ellis collection are fulvous with darker hymenium and ochraceous flesh. How long the grayish-blue color remains after drying I cannot tell.

7. **Scutiger holocyaneus** (Atk.)

Polyporus holocyaneus Atk. Jour. Myc. **8**: 117. 1902.

This species was collected near Blowing Rock, North Carolina, by Atkinson and Troyer in September, 1901. Several plants were found growing gregariously on the ground beneath coniferous trees. When fresh they were entirely blue, but in drying the color changed to dull brown. In this and several other respects the species resembles *Scutiger caeruleoporus*, from which, however, it is quite distinct.

8. **Scutiger radicatus** (Schw.)

Polyporus radicatus Schw. Proc. Acad. Sci. Phila. **4**: 155. 1834.

Polyporus Morgani Peck, Rep. N. Y. State Mus. **32**: 34. 1879.

Polyporus Kansensis Ell. & Barth. Erythea, **4**: 1. 1896.

EXSICC.: Ohio, *Lloyd, Morgan;* Indiana, *Underwood;* New York, *Overacker;* Canada, *Dearness, Macoun;* Kansas, *Bartholomew.*

This species is found from September to November in woody earth or on much-decayed wood about stumps or dead trunks. It is large and conspicuous and is quite easily recognized by its brown cap, large pores and long stipe, which is black and radicate at the base. The species ranges from Pennsylvania north to Canada and west to Ohio and Kansas, where it has been twice renamed. A specimen from Washington agrees with this plant in many respects, but has a darker, rougher pileus and firmer substance, with some differences in pore-structure. I hesitate, however, to describe it as new without more material, since *S. radicatus* is somewhat variable even in its type locality.

9. **Scutiger subradicatus** sp. nov.

A rather large thin plant with light brown almost glabrous surface, small white serrated tubes and short black stipe. Pileus irregular in outline, convex to plane, 12 × 9 × 0.5 cm.; surface fibrillose, drab-colored to isabelline, margin very thin, inflexed when young, irregularly undulate at maturity: context fleshy-tough, 1–7 mm. thick, pure milk-white even when dry; tubes mere areoles at first, short and small at maturity, scarcely 1 mm. in length, 3–4 to a mm., decurrent to the blackened part of the stipe, white, yellowish when dry, mouths polygonal, regular, at length much elongated by confluence or otherwise irregular, edges thin, toothed or fimbriate when mature: spores ovate to ellipsoidal, smooth, hyaline, not abundant, 3–4 × 5–7 μ: stipe short, thick, central, tapering and attached at the base, sooty-black up to the pores, 4 × 2.5 cm.; context milk-white, firm, fleshy-tough, surface minutely tomentose, rugose-reticulate when dry.

Two young plants of this species were collected by Dearness at London, Canada, in September, 1896, and a finely developed plant was recently found in New York by Mrs. M. L. Overacker. The three plants form a perfect series in development. All grew attached to decaying wood beneath the soil. The pores are not rounded and punctiform when very young, but large and areolate like those of *Merulius*, the short walls being built up from these ridges like the cells of a honey-comb without increasing in diameter. At first glance, one would say that this species is a peculiar form of *S. radicatus*, but a little investigation shows that it is quite distinct. Because of this superficial resemblance, however, I have assigned to it the name given above.

10. **Scutiger griseus** (Peck)

Polyporus griseus Peck, Rep. N. Y. State Mus. **26**: 68. 1874.

Polyporus Earlei Underw. Bull. Torrey Club, **24**: 84. 1897.

EXSICC.: New York, *Peck;* New Jersey, *Ellis*, *Stevenson;* Alabama, *Earle.*

This species has been found on the ground in open deciduous woods in New York and New Jersey and in pine woods in Alabama. It is the only member of the genus that has been collected in any quantity. Its place in the American flora is very much the same as that occupied by *P. leucomelas* in Europe, though the two species are certainly distinct.

11. **Scutiger persicinus** (Berk. & Curt.)

Polyporus persicinus Berk. & Curt. Grevillea, **1**: 37. 1872.

Little is known of this plant beyond the original description in Grevillea and a longer one by the same authors in the Centuries of North American Fungi. It was first found by Ravenel in South Carolina growing at the base of trunks in pine woods. A study of the type at Kew shows it to be a very distinct species, while its large size and dark brown or purple color must make it conspicuous among related species when seen in the fresh state. While bearing an outward resemblance to *P. Schweinitzii*, its context and pores are white when fresh, changing to gray when dried, and this color is uniform, except for a black line showing in cross-section as a limit of growth for a certain period. The margin of the pileus is very obtuse and lobed or quite irregular from confluence.

12. **Scutiger Whiteae** sp. nov.

A plant of medium size, growing in clusters, with yellowish-brown pileus and tubes that are white when fresh and rose-colored when dry. Pileus subcircular in outline, convex, depressed at the center, 8–12 × 0.5–1 cm.; surface pruinose, velvety to the touch, isabelline to fulvous, margin acute, at first inflexed, irregularly undulate at maturity: context fleshy-tough, 0.2–0.5 cm. thick, of nutty flavor, rose-tinted when dry, dark red next to the tubes; tubes 0.1–0.3 cm. long, 3 to a mm., very decurrent, white when young and fresh, rose-colored when bruised or dried, mouths circular or subcircular, edges thin, fimbriate: spores ovoid, hyaline, smooth, copious, $3.5 \times 5\,\mu$: stipe short, usually excentric, enlarged at the base, 3 × 2–4 cm., concolorous, tough: plants caespitose, often confluent at the base, all stages of development being found in one cluster.

A fine collection of this species was made by Miss V. White at Bar Harbor, Maine, in August, 1901. The plant was found growing among moss on a damp river bank and seemed to her to resemble *Hydnum repandum* in general habit. Accompanying the specimens are excellent field notes and drawings in water colors.

Plants sent to Kew as *P. ovinus* by Farlow from New Hampshire seemed to me to agree with Miss White's specimens, but no special study of them was made. A few other stray American plants in foreign herbaria lead me to think that this species may possibly range as far south as Ohio, but that its proper home is in New England.

Porodiscus gen. nov.

Hymenophore small, annual, tough, epixylous, erumpent from the lenticels of dead branches; stipe attached to the vertex of the pileus, usually curved at maturity; context white, fibrous, tubes cylindrical, short, one-layered, mouths constricted; spores globose, smooth, hyaline.

The type of this genus is *Polyporus pocula* (Schw.) Berk. & Curt., first described by Schweinitz as *Peziza pendula* and later as *Sphaeria pocula*. By Fries it was first assigned to the genus *Cyphella* and later formed the basis of the new Friesian genus *Enslinia*, which name, however, was preoccupied by *Enslinia* Rchb. The fruit body matures slowly and resembles a discomycete in its early stages, hence the confusion in regard to its systematic position. The name I have chosen for the genus refers to this resemblance. There is only one species known.

Porodiscus pendulus (Schw.)

Peziza pendula Schw. Syn. Fung. Car. 92. no. 1183. 1818.

Cyphella pendula Fr. Syst. **2**: 203. 1822.

Sphaeria pocula Schw. Proc. Acad. Sci. Phila. **4**: 189. *pl. 2. f. 6.* 1834.

Enslinia pocula Fr. Summ. Veg. Scand. **2**: 399. 1849.

Polyporus pocula Berk. & Curt. Proc. Am. Acad. Arts & Sci. **4**: 122. 1859.

Polyporus cupulaeformis Berk. & Curt. Grevillea, **1**: 38. 1872.

This species has been much confused because of its similarity to members of other groups. Schweinitz at first called it *Peziza digitalis* Alb. & Schw. (Consp. Fung. 315, no. 943. *pl. 5. f. 1.* 1805), a European plant which it outwardly resembles, but in publishing it he adds "nisi nova, minor, durior, *pendula* a me nominata." That this name *pendula* was unpublished previous to this time is indicated by the fact that he cites this as the place of its publication under *Cyphella pendula* in Proc. Acad. Sci. Phila. **4**: 184. 1834. That it was in common use may be judged from the fact that Fries got it in manuscript from Schwaegrichen, a friend of Schweinitz and the editor of his work on the fungi of Carolina.

When Schweinitz received more mature specimens of the same species from Dr. Torrey collected on branches of ash, he named it *Sphaeria pocula*, at the same time stating that the plant was entirely similar to his *Cyphella pendula*, except for the presence of perithecia. A southern form on sumac was later named *Polyporus cupulaeformis* by Berkeley and Curtis. The confusion that has arisen is partly due to the small size of the plant and the changes that take place in it as it develops. On emerging from the bark of its host it is erect, sessile and depressed at the center without the appearance of a *Polyporus*. Later, the central depression is occupied by a porous hymenium and a stipe develops, which varies in length and is more or less curved according to its position on the branch. The surface could hardly be called tomentose, but is uniformly covered with a brown powder, which bleaches and partly disappears in age.

As to locality and host, this species shows little choice, being found on dead branches of chestnut, oak, hickory, sumac, red cedar and other trees from New England to Florida. I have found it very common on dead branches pruned from chestnut trees in the woods and parks about New York City. Some of these branches are entirely infested with the fungus, even to the smallest twigs. According to Schweinitz, it was also common on chestnut around Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Specimens examined: Rav. Fung. Car. 10, 210, Ell. & Ev. N. A. Fung. 308, 2728, Rabenhorst-Winter Fung. Eur. 3328 (from America); Georgia, *Ellis;* South Carolina, *Ravenel;* Florida, *Calkins;* West Virginia, *Nuttall;* Missouri, *Demetrio;* Pennsylvania, *Ellis;* New Jersey, *Ellis*, *Murrill;* Delaware, *Commons;* Connecticut, *Thaxter.*

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